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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON D.C., 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND TOXIC
SUBSTANCES

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 6, 2006

SUBJECT: **Atrazine:** Finalization of Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision and Completion of Tolerance Reassessment and Reregistration Eligibility Process

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On January 31, 2003 EPA issued an Interim Reregistration Eligibility Decision (IRED) for the herbicide atrazine. On October 31, 2003 EPA issued a Revised IRED for atrazine. In these documents, the Agency assessed whether pesticide products containing atrazine as an active ingredient were eligible for reregistration considering all relevant issues except those relating to cumulative risks associated with potential exposures to atrazine and other structurally-related members of the chlorinated triazine class of pesticides, including simazine, propazine, and their three chlorinated degradates. These pesticides share a common neuroendocrine mechanism of toxicity which results in both reproductive and developmental consequences. Before tolerances can be considered fully reassessed or the Agency can make a final determination of reregistration eligibility, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) requires the Agency to evaluate food tolerances on the basis of cumulative risk from substances sharing a common mechanism of toxicity.

The Agency recently completed its cumulative risk assessment for the chlorinated triazine class of pesticides and has concluded that, with the mitigation measures in the 2006 simazine Reregistration Eligibility Decision and the 2003 atrazine IREDs, the cumulative risks associated with these pesticides are below the Agency's level of concern. The cumulative risk assessment and supporting documents are available in the public docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2005-0481 located on-line in the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) <http://www.regulations.gov>. Based on that assessment, EPA has now concluded, after taking into account the cumulative risks associated with exposures to all of the triazines, that all of the established tolerances for the triazine herbicides propazine, simazine, and atrazine meet the safety standard under Section 408(b)(2)(A) of the FFDCA, taking into account the provisions of Sections 408(b)(2)(C) and 408(b)(2)(D).

In other words, the Agency has found that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to the general U.S. population, infants, children, or other major identifiable subgroups of consumers from aggregate exposure (from food, drinking water, and non-occupational sources) to cumulative residues of atrazine and the other chlorinated triazine pesticides. With that finding, and the earlier findings contained in the 2003 IREDs for atrazine, the Agency has now completed its task under section 4(g) of FIFRA of determining whether products containing atrazine are eligible for reregistration, and it has completed its reassessment of atrazine tolerances under section 408(q) of the FFDCA. Please note that individual registrations of products containing atrazine will not be considered reregistered until they have successfully completed product-specific reregistration.